Prasar Bharati telecast Olympics of 2004 even while incurring a revenue loss of about Rs. 20 crores as part of its mandate.

(c) to (e) As per clause 6 of the 'Memorandum of Understanding' signed between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati, the latter shall endeavour to augment its revenue earnings year after year, strengthen its mechanism of resource mobilization and take effective steps for optimally utilizing the available resources to progressively reduce its dependence on Grants-in-Aid from the Central Government. The MoU is intended to tone up the functioning of Prasar Bharati and not to weaken its capacity to compete the sports events.

Functioning of FM Channels

2702. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many FM channels are functioning in the country at present;

(b) the details of revenue earned by Government through these FM channels, State-wise;

(c) how many requests are pending with Government for starting new FM channels; and

(d) by when Government will take decision on those requests?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) All India Radio has 139 FM Radio Stations. Besides 21 private FM Channels and 7 Community Radio Stations are currently operational in the country.

(b) The Government has earned revenue in the form of license fee from private Broadcasters, the details of which are as under:

State	Revenue Earned (In lakhs)
Maharashtra	13716.707
Delhi	3776.235
West Bengal	553.332
Tamil Nadu	2941.133

State	Revenue Earned (In lakhs)
Karnataka	3050.762
Gujarat	1014.763
Uttar Pradesh	2203.600
Madhya Pradesh	403.777
Andhra Pradesh	249.169
Total	**27909.478**

(c) and (d) The AIR sets up FM Stations from time to time on the basis of approved plan, availability of resources and approval of the competent authority. Applications for 2nd Phase of private FM Radio Stations have not yet been invited. For Community Radio Stations 13 more license agreements have been signed after completion of formalities.

TV/Radio programmes in Agartala

2703. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the period in hours over a week covered by the programmes of the tribal artists in the radio and TV Channels of Agartala;

(b) the basis of selection of the artists;

(c) whether Government are aware that the programmes derogatory to tribal/non-tribal harmony, are very often performed in the radio/programmes at Agartala; and

(d) whether Government would collect information from the knowledgeable sources and take necessary remedial steps?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR, Agartala broadcasts tribal programmes for a duration of 11 hours 5 minutes in a week whereas DDK, Agartala telecasts such programmes for a period of 5 hours 45 minutes per week.

(b) The artists are selected by the Audition Committee set up by AIR as per the prescribed rules and are offered programmes accordingly. DDK, Agartala offers programmes to artists auditioned and graded by AIR Agartala